

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO AMEMBASSY SANAA

S E C R E T STATE 076242

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI PURCHASE US ARMS FOR YAR

REF: JIDDA 2045

1. DEPSECDEF CLEMENTS INTENDS EXPLORE GENERAL SUBJECT OF ARMS FOR YEMEN DURING FORTHCOMING TALKS WITH SAUDI OFFICIALS.

2. FIFER REPORT NOT YET APPROVED AT HIGHEST DOD LEVEL. HOWEVER, FOLLOWING ARE SALIENT POINTS:

A) REPORT GENERALLY ENDORSES SAUDI PLAN OF LAST SEPTEMBER FOR MODERNIZATION OF YAR ARMED FORCES, ALTHOUGH WITH SOME MINOR EXCEPTIONS.

B) INTENT OF REPORT WAS, AND IS, TO BE BASIS FOR VALIDATION OF SPECIFIC SAUDI/YEMENI REQUESTS, AS THE LATTER ARE

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RECEIVED.

C) INTENT OF REPORT IS NOT REPEAT NOT TO PRESENT A DOCUMENT OR EVEN SPECIFIC ORAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO SAG/YARG. IT MAY NEVERTHELESS BE POSSIBLE LATER FOR USG TO OFFER GENERAL SUGGESTIONS TO SAG/YARG, AS RESULT OF REPORT.

D) FIFER TEAM LEFT TO SAUDIS TASK OF CONDUCTING DETAILED INVENTORY OF YAR ARMED FORCES, AND HENCE MAKES NO REPEAT NO SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS.

E) DESPITE GENERAL ABSENCE OF SPECIFICS, REPORT DOES RECOMMEND AN "IMPACT PACKAGE" (FOR DELIVERY WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF SIGNING OF LETTERS OF OFFER) OF 500 1974 LAW MISSILES, 50 2 1/2 TON TRUCKS, 5 TRACTORS, 1000 PARACHUTES, AND SMALL QUANTITIES OF .45 CAL. PISTOLS, .30 CAL MACHINE GUNS, ROCKET LAUNCHERS, MORTARS, AND ASSOCIATED AMMUNITION. DOD LEADERSHIP HAS NOT YET TAKEN POSITION ON THIS RECOMMENDATION. HOWEVER, CLEMENTS MAY BE PREPARED GO INTO THIS MATTER WITH SAUDIS DIRECTLY.

3. COMPLETION OF FIFER REPORT IS NOT REPEAT NOT ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE FOR SAUDI ACTION ON OVERALL PROGRAM. US COMMITMENT TO CONCEPT OF MODERNIZATION OF YAR ARMED FORCES ALREADY MADE IN PRINCIPLE (STATE 199146, 11 SEPT. 74, REPEATED IN STATE 274568, 14 DEC. 74) AND IN PRACTICE THROUGH P & A DATA AND LETTERS OF OFFER (STATE 214592, 28 SEPT. 74). NEITHER FIFER SURVEY NOR FIFER REPORT WAS INTENDED TO OPEN (OR HAS IN FACT OPENED) USG COMMITMENT TO QUESTION.

4. ANTICIPATING COMPLETION OF DOD PROCESSING OF FIFER REPORT, DEPT. HAS POUCHED COPIES TO EMBASSIES JIDDA AND SANA ON STRICTLY FYI BASIS. INGERSOLL

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